

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 3805

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MNUC, MARA

ANZUS, BEXP, OREP, NZ

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL ISSUES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS

BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING DECEMBER 17 COURTESY CALL BY AMBASSADOR
AND DCM ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER BRAIN

TALBOYS, SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE, NUCLEAR
POWERED SHIP VISITS AND FORTHCOM NG ANZUS OFFICIALS' MEETING
WERE DISCUSSED, WITH TALBOYS TAKING A REASSURING STAND FROM
USG POINT OF VIEW ON ALL OF THEM. END SUMMARY.

1. SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE

AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE BY

TALBOYS IN WHICH SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE HAD
BEEN LIKENED BY TALBOYS TO "A DEVIL FREE ZONE". TALBOYS SAID
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NEWS ITEM HAD QUOTED HIM CORRECTLY. IN 1964, AN ANGLICAN

VICAR HAD APPROACHED TALBOYS AND ASKED HIM TO SPONSOR A SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE. TALBOYS HAD RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD SPONSOR SUCH A ZONE PROVIDED VICAR WOULD SUPPORT A DEVIL FRYEE ZONE AROUND TALBOYS' HOME TOWN

OF WINTON ON SOUTH ISLAND. TALBOYS FINDS NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE TOTALLY IMPRACTICABLE, AND HE HAS NEVER UNDERSTOOD LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT OF IDEA.

2. NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS

AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT UNITED STATES HAD PASSED A LAW ASSUMING ABSOLUTE NO-FAULT LIABILITY ON ANY CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF A NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP REACTOR INCIDENT. EMBASSY HAD SENT AIDE MEMOIRE TO LABOUR GOVERNMENT LAST MARCH SETTING FORTH PROVISIONS OF NEW LAW AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT NEW ZEALAND WOULD SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO OPENING SELECTED PORTS TO AMERICAN NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS. LABOUR GOVERNMENT HAD NOTIFIED USG THAT DETAILED STUDY WOULD BE MADE AND THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE ANSWER UNTIL END OF YEAR--PRESUMABLY AFTER THE ELECTION. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED TO TALBOYS WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT NEW NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS VERY BUSY, AND WE DO NOT WISH TO PRESS MATTER UNDULY AT THIS STAGE. HOWEVER, WE DID WANT TALBOYS AND PRIME

MINISTER MULDOON TO KNOW THAT THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT MATTER FOR US, ESPECIALLY SINCE ONE-THIRD OF OUR WARSHIPS ARE NOW NUCLEAR POWERED WITH THE PERCENTAGE RISING EVERY YEAR. TALBOYS EXPRESSED SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF USG POSITION, BUT RE-EMPHASIZED THAT GOVERNMENT WAS EXTREMELY BUSY AT THE MOMENT WITH A HOST OF DOMESTIC MATTERS RELATING TO THE ECONOMY. AFTER THESE WERE TAKEN CARE OF, GOVERNMENT WOULD TURN ITS ATTENTION TO NPW MATTER. AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO PRESS REPORT THAT PRIME MINISTER MULDOON AND AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER-ELECT FRASER MIGHT BE MEETING FAIRLY SOON. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE EXCELLENT FORUM FOR TWO PRIME MINISTERS TO DISCUSS NPW VISITS. TALBOYS STATED THAT QUESTION DEFINITELY WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY FRASER AND MULDOON.

3. ANZUS OFFICIALS' MEETING

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AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT ANZUS OFFICIALS' MEETING WAS DUE TO TAKE PLACE IN WELLINGTON ON FEBRUARY 24 AND 25. EAST ASIAN ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB WOULD HIMSELF ATTEND

THE MEETINGS. TALBOYS SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETINGS AND WAS PLEASED TO LEARN FROM AMBASSADOR THAT HABIB HAD ONCE SERVED IN WELLINGTON

4. AM-TECH 76

AMBASSADOR CALLED TO TALBOYS' ATTENTION THAT AM-TECH 76 EXHIBITION OF WHAT AMERICAN INDUSTRY HAS TO OFFER NEW ZEALAND INDUSTRY IN SEVERAL RELATED FIELDS IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN AUCKLAND IN MARCH 1976. THE AMBASSADOR REALIZED THAT A NUMBER OF STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN TO REDUCE NEW ZEALAND'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NO TARIFF OR NON-TARIFF BARRIERS WOULD BE IMPOSED TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE EXHIBITION. AMBASSADOR HAD WRITTEN TO EXPRESS THIS SAME HOPE TO FORMER MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY WARREN FREER, WHO HAD GIVEN SATISFYING REASSURANCES. TALBOYS SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITH NEW MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY ADAMS-SCHNEIDER, AND HE WAS SURE THAT NO DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN THAT WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE TO AM-TECH 76 EXHIBITION.

5. CODEL HOLLINGS/GRIFFIN

THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED AGREEMENT TO MEET WITH CODEL IN QUEENSTOWN NEXT MONTH. TALBOYS SEEMED PLEASE THAT MEMBERS OF U.S. SENATE WOULD BE VISITING NEW ZEALAND AND THAT GROUP INCLUDED SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.
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